

CONGRATULATING BOXER
BERNARD HOPKINS

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate celebrated boxer Bernard Hopkins on his illustrative career spanning 18 years and 53 fights as the former WBA, WBC, IBF, and WBO undisputed middleweight world champion and light heavyweight world champion.

At the age of 41, Bernard Hopkins accomplished what few other boxers were able to do successfully. A 3-to-1 underdog, Hopkins jumped two weight classes and soundly defeated light heavyweight champion Antonio Tarver, who previously had a 24-4 record. Hopkins' victory over Tarver quieted critics who claimed Hopkins was overly ambitious in his desire to challenge Tarver for the light heavyweight championship, and secured his place in the boxing world as one of the best pound-for-pound fighters in history.

Overcoming adversity as an underdog is a situation in which Hopkins is well familiar. Born and raised in North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Bernard Hopkins grew up in an environment surrounded by poverty, hardship, and violence. A repeat juvenile offender at the age of 13, Hopkins was a frequent visitor to a detention facility for juveniles in Philadelphia. By 17 years of age, Hopkins estimates that he appeared before a juvenile offender judge at least 30 times. After being charged with his eighth felony for strong-armed robbery, Hopkins was convicted and served in an adult detention facility until the age of 22. It was in prison where Hopkins found religion and his inspiration to dedicate his life to boxing.

Citing his time of incarceration as a "blessing," Hopkins boxed in prison and turned pro shortly after his release. Despite suffering several early career losses, Hopkins quickly gained the reputation of being an "old school" type fighter, dispatching his opponents mercilessly with speed and precision. By the end of 2000, Hopkins defended his IBF title 12 times without a loss, while beating upper-echelon fighters such as John David Jackson, Glencoff Johnson, Simon Brown, and Antwon Echols. Perhaps the most defining fight of Hopkins boxing career occurred when he defeated six-division titleholder Oscar De La Hoya for the undisputed middleweight championship with a jarring knockout blow in the ninth round.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Bernard Hopkins for establishing his place in boxing history as one of the most prolific professional fighters of all time.

A TRIBUTE TO GWENDOLYN
TOWNS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Gwendolyn Towns, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. It behoove's us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will

join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Mrs. Gwendolyn Towns attended college in her home State of North Carolina where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technological State University. Later, she earned a masters degree in Guidance and Counseling from Brooklyn College, and obtained postgraduate credits from Pace University.

She has advocated for quality education for children and adults through her work with several organizations including the Women's House of Detention and NYC Public Schools where she spent over 30 years training both students and teachers to fulfill their potential.

Mrs. Towns continues her leadership and commitment to education issues as a member of various national and local committees. Her accomplishments include raising over \$850,000 for undergraduate and graduate scholarships as chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Spouses Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament. In the 10th Congressional District, she administers the General Mills/CBC Spouses scholarship program, which provides financial resources to undergraduate, graduate and doctoral candidates pursuing careers in a health-related profession.

Additionally, Mrs. Towns serves on the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Children's Museum, and as President of the Interfaith Medical Center Auxiliary where she coordinates Toys for Tots and insures that each patient is remembered during the holiday season. As co-chair of the Interfaith Medical Center Foundation's annual fund raising ball, she is helping to ensure that the hospital continues to grow to meet the community's needs. Mrs. Towns is also affiliated with the NYC Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Concerned Women of Brooklyn, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Boys and Girls High School Women's Day (Women on the "High"), Bridge Street Martin Luther King Day Award, Barber Scotia College, New Lots Lion Club, NAACP and Berean Missionary Baptist Church.

Most importantly, she and her husband, Congressman ED TOWNS, are the proud parents of two children: Assemblyman Darryl Towns and Deidra Towns Blount. They have five grandchildren: Kiara, Jasmine, Kristian, Trinity and Dale.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Mrs. Gwendolyn Towns as she offers her talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Gwendolyn Towns' selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5576) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Hooley-Hulshof-Skelton amendment to increase funding for the HIDTA program. For the past 5 fiscal years, the HIDTA program has essentially been level funded at \$226 million. Our amendment increases the fiscal year 2007 amount by \$8 million for a new total of \$235 million. This increase is offset by reducing the bill's funding level for the National Archives by \$8 million, which will leave Archives with an estimated \$1.4 million increase over last year's funding level.

I would like to thank the gentlelady from Oregon for working with my office on this amendment. I know Oregon has a significant meth problem just like Missouri, and I'm glad that we can work together to combat this horrific drug. I also would like to thank my good friend from Missouri, Mr. SKELTON, for his support.

Methamphetamine use and production is a serious problem in my home State of Missouri. Since 2002, Missouri has led the Nation in the number of reported clandestine meth labs. These labs are an insidious problem. Not only are these labs highly volatile and prone to explosions, they create environmental hazards and pose significant health risks for those living in surrounding areas. The highly toxic by-product that meth makers leave in their wake pollutes the environment and groundwater, leaves homes uninhabitable and puts law enforcement and clean-up crews in peril.

But most importantly, we must take every step possible to stop the spread of this drug because of the terrible toll it is taking on people in our communities. Sadly, I think it is safe to say that all my colleagues are all too aware of the irreparable harm this drug takes on the physical health of its users. Many of you have seen the before and after photographs of these emaciated, scarred—both mentally and physically—and often toothless users.

The recent enactment of the Combat Meth Act was a step in the right direction. This law is a preventive measure designed to limit meth makers access to cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine, which is a common precursor to meth. While I am hopeful that this law will help curb domestic production, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to combat meth trafficking. That is why it is so crucial we continue to provide funding for law enforcement programs, such as HIDTA.

This joint endeavor between Federal, State and local law enforcement has been highly effective in combating the trafficking of illegal

narcotics. In 2005, Midwest HIDTA, which encompasses Missouri and five other States, arrested more than 9,000 individuals for various drug violations, seized more than 650 pounds of meth, almost 7,000 pounds of cocaine and seized nearly 1,700 firearms. Of these individuals, roughly 1,400 were charged with methamphetamine offenses.

This program is a key component of our national drug enforcement policy. HIDTA's greatest strength is that it is a cooperative endeavor among local and national officials who coordinate and devise a strategy to effectively curtail drug trafficking in the U.S. I believe this is a worthwhile amendment, and I encourage my colleagues to support its adoption.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"
LAWRENCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in profound sadness to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of William "Bill" Lawrence. Bill was a dear friend of mine who touched the lives of all who came in contact with him and I am privileged to have known such a wonderful person.

Bill was truly a great man who dedicated his life to our country. He began this service at the young age of 16 when he enlisted in the Navy. Following his four years of naval service in China in 1927, Bill was honorably discharged, and he chose to make his home in San Francisco. Once again, Bill sought a job that would benefit the public. He first worked as a cable car conductor on the Market Street Railway, one of the few union jobs in San Francisco at that time.

In 1938, Bill began working for the U.S. Postal Service in San Francisco, and he became an active and dedicated member of the Golden Gate Branch 214 of the National Association of Letter Carriers. He delivered mail in the City of San Francisco for 35 years and worked as Secretary of Golden Gate Branch 214 of the NALC for 6 years. Bill remained a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers until the day he died.

Bill's dedication to his local community was even more evident when he began his political career. In 1970, Bill was elected to the Brisbane City Council and over the next two decades he continued in that position, serving twice as Mayor. In an effort to better his community, he oversaw the construction of Crocker Industrial Park. After his tenure on the City Council, Bill continued to act as the Legislative Liaison for the California State Association of Letter Carriers.

Bill's love of public service and his desire to improve the quality of life of Brisbane residents led him to join the Brisbane Lions Club.

His unfaltering dedication was obvious, as he insisted in participating in every Lions Club initiative. Each year, Bill Lawrence painted 1,800 Easter eggs and volunteered at the Christmas tree lot. He continued to attend meetings, even after his hearing and eyesight began to fade.

Although Bill Lawrence officially retired at the age of 65, he could not imagine not serving his country and local community. He refused to allow age and deteriorating health to stand in the way of public service. For the past 30 years, Bill has served as Brisbane's "Santa Claus," bringing smiles to many families during the holiday season. Only last year, at age 97, Bill finally was forced to retire from this post, which brought so much joy to him and children throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to call Bill Lawrence my friend. He always said that his love of politics stemmed from the rewarding feeling he got from helping people. Indeed, Bill helped thousands of people throughout his lifetime. His naval service, postal work, and political activism allowed him to touch lives throughout the world for the past 98 years. It is rare to come across a man who not only dedicated his life to his country but also to his family, his dear wife, Honey Bee, and his children and grandchildren. Bill Lawrence will be sorely missed by the residents of Brisbane as well as by all who knew him, but Bill's legacy of love for his country and for public service will forever remain alive in our hearts.